

Translation

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2002P01599WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/014258	International filing date (day/month/year) 15 December 2003 (15.12.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 23 December 2002 (23.12.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A47L 9/26		
Applicant BSH BOSCH UND SIEMENS HAUSGERÄTE GMBH		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 22 July 2004 (22.07.2004)	Date of completion of this report 10 March 2005 (10.03.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

☐ the international application as originally filed.

☒ the description, pages 1-12, as originally filed,
pages _____, filed with the demand,
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.

☒ the claims, Nos. 1-13, as originally filed,
Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,
Nos. _____, filed with the demand,
Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____,
Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____.

☒ the drawings, sheets/fig 1/7-7/7, as originally filed,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,
sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-13	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document US 3 999 640 (D1), which is considered the closest prior art, discloses a vacuum cleaner with a housing in which a cord winding mechanism is provided for winding and unwinding a power cord with a power plug, and an auxiliary mechanism for moving the power plug from a first position, in which the power cord is wound up and shortened to its shortest length, to a second position, in which the power cord or the power plug is within reach so that the power cord can be unwound by hand.

In document D1, the power plug is drawn out of the vacuum cleaner housing by a carrier when a pedal switch is actuated. The subject matter of claim 1 differs from this known vacuum cleaner by the following technical features:

- A handle is movably mounted on the vacuum cleaner that
- is coupled with the auxiliary mechanism, and
- said auxiliary mechanism is actuated by moving the handle.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The disadvantage associated with the mechanism known from document D1 is that a separate pedal switch is required to pull the door and the power plug out of the housing.

Therefore, the problem addressed by the invention is that

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of developing a vacuum cleaner of the type in question with an auxiliary mechanism for moving the power plug such that said mechanism is simple and ergonomic to operate. The prior art at large does not include any teaching that would prompt a person skilled in the art who was occupied with the problem of interest to modify or adapt a vacuum cleaner according to D1 in the manner of the present teaching and in this way arrive at subject matter falling within the scope of the present claim 1. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Claims 2-13 are dependent upon claim 1 and thus likewise satisfy the PCT requirements with respect to novelty and inventive step.